



AVIAN FLU UPDATE

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THE OFFICIAL AVIAN INFLUENZA NEWSLETTER OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

Avian Influenza: Current Global Situation Update

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases
- Now fourteen countries have reported outbreaks

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AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN HUMANS

Since January 2004, the World Health Organization (WHO) has reported human cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) in ten countries: Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Egypt, Djibouti and Iraq.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/avian/latestupdate.htm>

Cumulative Number of Confirmed Human Cases of Avian Influenza A/ (H5N1) Reported to WHO through March 1, 2007. WHO only reports laboratory-confirmed cases.

- ◆ Total human cases of H5N1 (confirmed) = 277
- ◆ Total human deaths from H5N1= 167

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/en/index.html

Currently, there are no reported human OR animal cases of the highly pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) in United States.

China - March 1, 2007

The Ministry of Health in has reported one case of human infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus.

The case is a 44-year-old woman. She became ill with fever and pneumonia on February 18th and was hospitalized on February 22nd where she remains in critical condition. The case was laboratory confirmed by the Fujian provincial laboratory and by the national laboratory.

Information provided to WHO indicates that she is a farmer who kept birds in her back yard and was possibly exposed to sick birds. An investigation is under way to determine if this exposure was the source of her infection. Close contacts have been placed under medical observation.

Of the 23 cases confirmed to date in China, 14 have been fatal.

Egypt - March 1, 2007

The Ministry of Health and Population has announced a new human case of avian influenza A (H5N1) virus infection. The case was confirmed by the Egyptian Central Public Health Laboratory and by the US Naval Medical Research Unit No.3 (NAMRU-3).

The 4-year-old girl developed symptoms on Feb-

ruary 25th, was admitted to hospital on February 26th and her condition remains stable. The girl was exposed to sick birds at her home one week prior to the onset of symptoms. Contacts of the girl remain healthy and are being closely monitored.

Of the 23 cases confirmed to date in Egypt, 13 have been fatal.

Laos - February 27, 2007

The Ministry of Health in Lao People's Democratic Republic has reported the first human case of infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus.

On February 24 and 25, a team from the Thai and Lao ministries of health and WHO officials investigated the situation in the girl's village and those districts where poultry deaths had occurred earlier. Close contacts of the girl have been identified and are being monitored daily. The adults were provided prophylaxis with oseltamivir and to date; all of these people remain healthy.

This is the first human case of infection with the H5N1 avian influenza virus in Laos.

<http://www.who.int/en/>

AVIAN INFLUENZA CASES IN POULTRY AND WILD BIRDS

Now fourteen countries have reported outbreaks since February 2, 2007:

United Kingdom - Feb. 2	Pakistan - Feb. 22
Solvenia - Feb. 6	Turkey - Feb. 23
Japan - Feb. 8	Laos - Feb. 25
South Korea - Feb. 11	Kuwait - Feb. 26
Hungary - Feb. 12	Russia - Feb. 26
Thailand - Feb. 14	Vietnam - Feb. 27
Afghanistan - Feb. 22	Myanmar - Feb. 28

http://www.oie.int/AVIAN%INFLUENZA/A_countries reported outbreaks.htm



Photo by Mark Trahan

NATIONAL NEWS

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services February 28, 2007

News Release - Scientists and public health officials, wary that the H5N1 avian influenza virus could trigger an influenza pandemic, have looked to past pandemics, including the 1918 "Spanish Flu," for insight into pandemic planning. However, in a *Journal of Infectious Diseases* review article now posted online, David M. Morens, M.D., and Anthony S. Fauci, M.D., of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), part of the National Institutes of Health, conclude that studies of the 1918 influenza pandemic, which killed some 50 to 100 million people around the globe, have so far raised more questions than they answer.



Dr. Anthony S. Fauci



In their article, Drs. Morens and Fauci review several topics, including the origins of the 1918 pandemic influenza virus, the excess mortality of the pandemic, the predilection to kill the young and healthy,

the lower-than-expected mortality among the elderly, and the cyclicity of influenza pandemics over the past 100 years. Such topics are relevant today as highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza viruses have spread from Asia to the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

Drs. Fauci and Morens conclude that the best hope for the future lies in developing and stockpiling more broadly protective influenza vaccines. In the mean-

time, prevention efforts should be directed towards logistical planning, increased surveillance, the development of medical countermeasures, an improved understanding of pandemic risks, and an aggressive and broad research agenda.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/feb2007/niaid-28.htm>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services February 21, 2007

National Institutes of Health- News Release

The Influenza Genome Sequencing Project, funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), one of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announced today that it has achieved a major milestone. The entire genetic blueprints of more than 2,000 human and avian influenza viruses taken from samples around the world have been completed and the sequence data made available in a public database.

"This information will help scientists understand how influenza viruses evolve and spread," says NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., "and it will aid in the development of new flu vaccines, therapies and diagnostics."



"Scientists around the world can use the sequence data to compare different strains of the virus, identify the genetic factors that determine their virulence, and look for new therapeutic, vaccine and diagnostic targets," says NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D.

<http://www.nih.gov/news/pr/feb2007/niaid-21.htm>

LOCAL AND STATE NEWS

Local News

San Diego County Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Avian Influenza Test on Chickens, Wild Birds, ducks and others: of the 195 tested December 2006 - February 2007 all were negative. During the month of February, 14 birds were tested.

Local Outreach

Activities related to Pandemic Influenza education in the regions continue with more than 95,291 educational brochures distributed to various locations (e.g., schools, clinics, local businesses, community organizations). In addition, a total of 104 presentations have been provided to staff and community residents; 3 more presentations are scheduled through the coming weeks.

State News -

An updated version of the "Surveillance for Avian Influenza a (H5N1) in California" have been posted on the State website. *March 2, 2007*

[http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/vrdl/html/flu/h5n1/Avian%20Influenza%20Webpage%20Update%20\(3-2-2007\).pdf](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/dcdc/vrdl/html/flu/h5n1/Avian%20Influenza%20Webpage%20Update%20(3-2-2007).pdf)

AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA

Associated Press.Com - March 2, 2007

"Building a stockpile of bird flu vaccine would help ensure poor countries do not lose out if a flu virus starts killing people worldwide," says the World Health Organization's top flu official. Up to 500 million doses of vaccine can now be produced, far short of the amount that would be needed if people begin falling ill from bird flu en masse. Indonesia and other developing countries in Asia fear the limited supply of vaccine would be out of reach for them, even though they provided the viruses to make it.

A so-called virtual stockpile, which can be built from countries that agree to donate a portion of their vaccine, could guarantee some vaccine would be equitably distributed within the developing world in the event of a pandemic, Dr. David Heymann, WHO's top flu official, told The Associated Press. A long-term goal would be for poor countries to receive enough technology and training to produce vaccines.

WHO has said a letter will be sent to Supari outlining the agency's position. A meeting with several countries will be held this month in Jakarta to discuss vaccine development and virus sharing.

WHO closely monitors H5N1 strains to ensure the virus is not changing in a way that could allow it to easily spread among people. <http://news.yahoo.com>

CIDRAP- February 28, 2007

A comprehensive summary-authored overview of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) for *Agricultural and Wildlife Considerations and Implications for Human disease* have been posted on the CIDRAP.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu/cidrap/content/influenza/avianflu/>

CIDRAP News - February 27, 2007

A US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) panel recommended that the agency approve the nation's first H5N1 influenza vaccine, despite new evidence that the vaccine is less protective than reported in a clinical trial last year.

The vaccine is based on an H5N1 virus isolated from a Vietnamese patient in 2004. Two companies, Sanofi and Chiron Corp., have been producing clade 1 H5N1 vaccines for the national stockpile under US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contracts worth more than \$200 million. At least 3 million courses of the vaccine are already in the national stockpile. The government's most recent pandemic planning update, released in November 2006, said up to 5 million more courses could be added in 2007 if vaccine seed stock supply and production yield are adequate. The stockpile goal is 20 million courses.

<http://www.cidrap.umn.edu>

AVIAN FLU IN THE MEDIA (Cont.)

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) - February 22, 2007

A new ECDC Technical Report published today reviews the state of preparedness of EU and EEA/EFTA Member States against a possible influenza pandemic. While much has been done since 2005 to improve preparedness, the report identifies a number of areas where more work needs to be done. The report was presented by Zsuzsanna Jakab, Director of ECDC, at a webinar hosted on ECDC's website. Denis Coulombier, Head of ECDC's Preparedness and Response Unit, and Angus Nicoll, Project Coordinator for Influenza at ECDC, also spoke at the web-cast.

<http://www.ecdc.eu.int/>

Resources

- **County Vector Control Program's (888) 551-INFO (4636)** for info on how to protect birds, or to report dead birds.
- **HHSA's Avian and Pandemic Flu Info Line (619) 515-6900** for info regarding avian and pandemic flu.
- Educational materials are available for public distribution and are also downloadable from the county website: www.sdbirdflu.org or www.sdpandemicflu.org. Click on "Pandemic Flu".
- National Geographic International Edition: www.nationalgeographic.com
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int
- Federal Dept. of Health & Human Services: www.pandemicflu.gov
- Federal CDC site: www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic
- State of California: www.dhs.ca.gov
- County of San Diego: www.sdbirdflu.org



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
Health and Human Services Agency



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